

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, JO, US, MU

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN ASSISTANCE TO OMAN

REF: (A) SECTO 423; (B) AMMAN 1857

1. FOLLOWING IS STATE/DOD/NSC ANALYSIS OF STEPS REQUIRED
TO MEET JORDANIAN REQUEST FOR US HELP IN PROVIDING PILOT
AND ANTI-INFILTRATION TRAINING TO OMAN, PER REFERENCE A.

2. T-37S. SINCE USAF HAS NO EXCESS T-37 AIRCRAFT, ANY
T-37S THAT MIGHT BE LEASED TO JORDAN WITHIN A SHORT TIME

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FRAME WOULD HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM OPERATIONAL UNITS,

WITH SOME CONSEQUENT DISRUPTION. OUR INITIAL REVIEW INDICATES THAT SIX T-37S COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHIN TWO MONTHS. AIRCRAFT WOULD PROBABLY COME FROM AN AIR TRAINING COMMAND BASE AND WOULD BE 1968 MODELS, WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE SIX T-37S ALREADY LEASED TO JORDAN. SUPPORTING AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT WOULD PROBABLY NOT POSE A SERIOUS PROBLEM AS LONG AS ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT ARE LOCATED AT SAME OPERATING BASE AS THE ORIGINAL T-37S, AND WE BELIEVE THAT SPARE PARTS COULD BE HANDLED BY A SMALL INCREMENTAL INCREASE IN THE EXISTING PIPELINE.

3. ANTI-INFILTRATION. PARTICIPATION BY BOTH ARMY AND AIR FORCE WILL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO PROVIDE EXPERT ADVICE ON ANTI-INFILTRATION OPERATIONS AS ENVISIONED IN REFERENCE B. DOD USED A CENTRALIZED APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM IN VIETNAM, BUT NO LONGER MAINTAINS A CENTRALIZED POOL OF THIS TYPE OF EXPERTISE. THE INITIAL REQUIREMENT WOULD BE TO SEND AN ASSESSMENT TEAM TO JORDAN CONSISTING OF ONE OR TWO SPECIALISTS EACH FROM ARMY AND AIR FORCE TO SURVEY ASSETS ALREADY ON HAND, REVIEW OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS AND DETERMINE DETAILED REQUIREMENTS (TO EXTENT THIS INFORMATION IS KNOWN TO JORDANIANS). SUBSEQUENTLY AN ADVISORY TEAM COULD BE ORGANIZED TO FOLLOW UP ON THE INITIAL SURVEY RESULTS.

4. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT BEST APPROACH WOULD BE, PER SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTIONS, TO TELL JORDANIANS PROMPTLY THAT WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THEIR REQUESTS; WE ARE READY TO SEND A SMALL SURVEY TEAM TO AMMAN TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ON INFILTRATION; AS TO ADDITIONAL T-37S WE BELIEVE THE JORDANIANS SHOULD WORK OUT PROMPTLY WITH THE OMANS THE DETAILS OF THE DESIRED PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE TIMING AND EXTENT OF PILOT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. WE BELIEVE GOJ SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE AVAILABILITY OF PILOT CANDIDATES FROM OMAN AND DETERMINE WHAT TRAINING THEY WILL REQUIRE PRIOR TO PHASING INTO T-37S. TEN T-37S ARE NOW ON ORDER BY THE JORDANIANS, AND ARE DUE TO BE DELIVERED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. AT PRESENT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY JET-QUALIFIED OMANI PILOTS, AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT OMANI TRAINEES WOULD NOT BE

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READY FOR T-37S BEFORE THE PLANES THE JORDANIANS HAVE ON ORDER ARE DELIVERED. IN SUCH CASE THE LEASE OF ADDITIONAL T-37S TO JORDAN MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY TO MEET OMANI TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, AT LEAST NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. INGERSOLL

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